

Northern Croquet Academy, York
Course Programme 2027

Summary

Availability as at 1 December 2026

342.50

Dates 2027	Course	Course Leader	Cost £
Tues 9 March	*AC/GC* How to manage a tournament	Academy team	42.50
Tu-W 13-14 April	*AC/GC* Become a CqE Club-Level Coach	Lionel Stock	75.00*
Th 22, F 23 April	*AC/GC* One-to-One coaching with James Hawkins	James Hawkins	42.50
Sat 24 April	*AC* How to make 12 hoops in one go	James Hawkins	42.50
Sun 25 April	*AC/GC* Become a Croquet England Grade 1 Coach	James Hawkins	42.50*
Tues 27 April	*GC* Strategies for success in GC (1)	Sarah Melvin	42.50#
Wed 28 April	*GC* Strategies for success in GC (2)	Sarah Melvin	42.50#
Tues 11 May	*GC* Moving on in GC	Penny Clark	42.50
Wed 12 May	*AC* Breaks made easy	John Harris, Lionel Stock	42.50#
Thurs 13 May	*AC* Bisques: from mystery to mastery	Lionel Stock, John Harris	42.50#
Sat 15 May	*GC* Develop your GC strokes and strategy	John Crossland	42.50#
Sun 16 May	*GC* GC strokes and strategy in practice	John Crossland	42.50#
Tues 18 May	*AC/GC* Firm foundations	Penny Clark, Lionel Stock	42.50
Tues 25 May	*GC* Mastering reliable GC shot-making	Joe Manifold	42.50
Tues 22 June	*AC/GC* Getting going in Short Croquet	John Harris	42.50

* Croquet England offers £25 subsidies towards course costs. Some Federations may be able to provide additional support.

\# £75 if booked as a pair (Melvin+Melvin, or Crossland+Crossland, or Breaks+Bisques)

Travel to York by train!
Short 10-minute walk to the grounds
with good connections to most parts of the country

Courses in detail

How to manage a tournament – Tues 9 March 2027

This one-day workshop is for players who want to understand the ins and outs of managing a tournament in either AC or GC. We will look at basic principles and simple paper-and-pencil methods of organising a competitive event, before moving on to consider different formats, the assistance computer programs can offer, and the very many communication and housekeeping matters that help to make a tournament welcoming, enjoyable and successful.

Cost: £42.50. Course leaders: Northern Academy team

Become a Croquet England Club-Level Coach – Tues/Weds 13/14 April 2027

This two-day course is for both AC and GC players aiming to develop their coaching skills and seeking Croquet England accreditation to coach within their own club. Coaches also find that coaching others can help them significantly develop their own game. To complete their qualification, candidates go on to coach five sessions at their own club. You are expected to have a basic working knowledge of the Laws of AC or the Rules of GC. A subsidy of £25 is available for qualifying Croquet England subscribers. Some Federations may also offer further support.

Cost: £75. Course leader: Lionel Stock

One-to-One Coaching with James Hawkins – Thursday 22 or Friday 23 April 2027

Boost your playing power with an hour of individual tuition with James Hawkins, a widely experienced coach in both AC and GC, author of *Complete Croquet*, a Referee, a National Handicapper, and an Examining Coach. Use the time to work on any aspect or aspects of croquet strategy, technique or mindset that you choose. One-to-One Coaching is open to both AC and GC players. Please contact the Course Secretary before booking to discuss timings.

Cost: £42.50 per one-hour session: £50 for two people sharing the same one-hour session.
Course leader: James Hawkins

How to make twelve hoops in one go – Saturday 24 April 2027

This one-day course, led by the author of *Complete Croquet*, is for AC players with handicaps of around 16 or below keen to develop their break play. Topics are planned to include the importance of self-assessment; understanding the classical break; deconstructing the croquet stroke; making the most of the stop shot and the hoop approach shot; the modern break in theory and practice; making use of the full lawn; tips and tricks for correcting errors; and more.

Cost: £42.50. Course leader: James Hawkins

Become a Croquet England Grade 1 Coach – Sunday 25 April 2027

Coaching others to a higher level can greatly improve your own game. This course is for qualified and experienced Club-Level Coaches who now want to further develop their coaching skills and upgrade their qualification to either Grade 1 AC or Grade 1 GC status. To become a Grade 1 AC Coach you are expected to have a handicap of 12 or below; to become a Grade 1 GC Coach the threshold is 6 or below. Before the course day candidates are required to study a Pre-Course Pack closely. The day itself will include elements of coaching for coaches, practical exercises and assessment. A subsidy of £25 per person is normally available for CqE subscribers. Some Federations may also be able to offer further support.

Cost: £42.50. Course leader: James Hawkins

Strategies for success in GC (1) – Tuesday 27 April 2027

These two complementary one-day courses are for intermediate-level GC players (around handicaps 6-10) who now want to consolidate and develop their game. The days can be booked separately or, for the full experience, together. Topics will be distributed between Days 1 and 2 as the course leader determines. Over the two days the course is being planned to include such topics as 7-yard clearances, glancing shots, strong positions when not first to hoop, stop-shots, jump shots, risky delicate shots around hoops, stymying the stance, magic angled hoop shots, and more. Much of each day will be spent on the lawn and will include plenty of practice time with ample opportunity for individual support and guidance.

Cost: £42.50 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Strategies for Success in GC (2)' (Wednesday 29 April)
Course leader: Sarah Melvin

Strategies for success in GC (2) – Wednesday 28 April 2027

This is the second of two complementary one-day courses for intermediate-level GC players (around handicaps 6-10) looking to develop their game. Details above. Book the day on its own or book both days as a pair.

Cost: £42.50 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Strategies for Success in GC (1)' (Tuesday 28 April)
Course leader: Sarah Melvin

*Moving on in GC – **Tuesday** 11 May 2027*

This one-day course is for GC beginners and improvers looking to develop their play. It will appeal to higher handicap players or those at an early stage of their croquet journey with or without a handicap. We will consider the essential points of successful stroke play, accuracy and tactics, with common strengths and weaknesses guiding the practical demonstrations and practice exercises. The day will include tips on technique to promote confident and focused play in the context of typical game situations, with ample opportunity to practise new skills, including through supervised games. Most of the day will be spent outside. We will also explore wider aspects including game preparation and court etiquette.

Cost: £42.50. Course leader: Penny Clark

Breaks made easy – Wednesday 12 May 2027

Breaks are the key to winning games in Association Croquet and Short Croquet. This is one of a pair of linked one-day courses designed for players with handicaps around 16-22 who are familiar with basic technique and who now want to play more sustained breaks and improve their use of bisques. This first day will centre on how to build a well-managed break through a series of Top Tips for each stroke in the break, and how to plan ahead to keep the break going. We will look at where and how to best place balls to sustain a break, and how to get back on track when things don't work out. There will be ample opportunity for discussion and plenty of time on the lawn to put the ideas into practice.

Cost: £42.50 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Bisques: from Mystery to Mastery' (Thursday 13 May)
Course leaders: John Harris and Lionel Stock

Bisques: from mystery to mastery – Thursday 13 May 2027

Ever felt you don't make the best of your bisques? Not always sure how to spot an opportunity for a break, how to set it up in what might seem an unpromising situation, or how to put it right if things start to fall apart? If so, then this course is for you. It is one of a pair of linked one-day courses designed for higher-handicap AC and Short Croquet players familiar with basic technique who are now ready to make the most of their bisques – essential for winning games. This second day will centre on when and how to successfully set up a break with bisques, including bisque openings; identifying break opportunities; bisque budgeting; and moves – with and without bisques – to put things right when they go wrong. There will be every opportunity to discuss the principles and to put them into practice on the lawn.

Cost: £42.50 – special price of £37.50 if booked with Breaks Made Easy' (Wednesday 12 May)
Course leaders: Lionel Stock and John Harris

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Don't exactly fit the handicap range?
Email the Courses Secretary to discuss with her whether the course is for you!

Develop your Golf Croquet Strokes and Strategy – Saturday 15 May 2027

This one-day course is for Golf Croquet players with handicaps of around GC 8-12 who now want to develop their understanding of the key tactical moves (clearances, hoop running, positioning, jump shots and so on) and how they can be used tactically to improve play and achieve success. The day will look at the classic tactical shots, the skills required to play them successfully, and the principles of tactical play and how they can make a significant difference in a game situation, while also moving towards some of the more advanced aspects of play.

Cost: £42.50 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Golf Croquet Strokes and Strategy in Practice' (Sunday 16 May)
Course leader: John Crossland

Golf Croquet Strokes and Strategy in Practice – Sunday 16 May 2027

This course complements the course on 15 May and, similarly, is for GC players with handicaps of around 8-12. The day will centre around a series of coached games, with players grouped by handicap and with coaches taking opportunities during play to discuss technique, tactics and available options in situations arising in each game. You should be familiar with the classic tactical moves (clearing, blocking, nestling, promoting and so on), and now would like to develop your understanding of how in game situations these and other moves can best be put to work tactically.

Cost: £42.50 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Develop your Golf Croquet Strokes and Strategy' (Saturday 15 May)
Course leader: John Crossland

Firm Foundations – Tuesday 18 May 2027

At Club level and beyond, games are won or lost as much by technique as by tactics. So getting the basics right can make all the difference to your game. This practical one-day course is for both AC and GC players. The fundamental principles of stance, grip and swing are explored, together with tried and tested procedures for reliable positioning of any shot in GC and AC play. The day then considers a wide range of other techniques including two-ball shots (GC players need them too!) and jump shots (surprisingly useful in AC!). This course is for players of all abilities. It will be largely outdoors and will offer plenty of opportunity to put principles into practice. Get your technique right and start winning!

Cost: £42.50. Course leaders: Penny Clark and Lionel Stock

Mastering reliable GC shot-making – Tuesday 25 May 2027

This one-day practical course is aimed at GC players with handicaps around 10-14. It centres on helping players develop the technical skills and confidence needed to play a wider range of Golf Croquet shots consistently and successfully. The emphasis throughout the day will be on how to make shots work dependably, through developing sound technique, improving accuracy, distance control, and building confidence through structured practice. The course is being planned to include close focus on placement shots; stance and alignment; precision and accuracy in gentle shots such as hampering, blocking and jawsing; and playing clearance and stop shots with both power and control. The aim is for players to develop the skills to execute reliably and well shots they already recognise as appropriate.

Cost: £42.50. Course leader: Joe Manifold

Getting Going in Short Croquet – Tuesday 22 June 2027

This one-day course is open to players of both codes, and should appeal both to those starting out in Short Croquet, and also to GC players who want to diversify into AC play and use their skills to give them a head start in the original game. It is also for coaches looking for a simple way of introducing Short Croquet into their own clubs, either as a game in its own right or as a bridge into AC. The day offers a full introduction to Short Croquet, covering distinctive aspects including croquet shots and building a break, and helping participants play with understanding and pleasure. It will include guidance on how the skills can be easily learned, a supported game, and plenty of opportunity for individual help.

Cost: £42.50. Course leader: John Harris

To find out more

To discuss a course further, to request an accommodation list or with any other questions, please contact the Courses Secretary: Debbie James, Mobile tel: 0777 277 8232, email northerncroquetacademy@gmail.com

To make a booking

Apply via the Northern Croquet Academy website www.northerncroquetacademy.org
Use the menu tabs 'How to Apply' and '2027 Courses'.
Once you have found your chosen course(s),
click on the Register button to apply.

Payment by bank transfer will be requested by email once your booking registration is received. Payment will secure your booking and receipt of payment will be confirmed by email. Please note that any reservations made outside the handicap advisory range will be subject to review.

If you are unable to pay by bank transfer, please indicate in the Comment box on the electronic registration form. All further communication will wherever possible be by email.

Course booklets
are offered with all one-day or two-day Northern Academy courses

www.northerncroquetacademy.org

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